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ATTENTION STATE-LICENSED CONTRACTORS: DID YOU RENEW YOUR LICENSE?

As a reminder, contractors performing the following types of construction work must hold a state contractor's license issued by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Construction Industry Licensing Board:

- General contracting
- Building contracting
- Residential contracting
- Sheet metal
- Roofing
- Air-conditioning
- Mechanical
- Swimming pool/spa
- Plumbing
- Underground utility and excavation
- Solar
- Pollutant storage

Certified contractors holding a state license in one of the above categories must renew their license by August 31st of every even-numbered year (which 2008 is). Before you can renew your license, you must complete all continuing education requirements. These continuing education requirements were revised last year and now require only 1 hour of laws and rules-related continuing education as part of the 14 hours required during each licensure cycle (prior to November 2007, 3 hours of laws and rules education were required). All contractors are required, as a part of these 14 hours of

continuing education, to have at least 1 hour in each of the following areas of study:

- Workplace Safety
- Workers' Compensation
- Business Practices
- Advanced Module Building Code;
- Laws and Rules
- In addition, General, Building, Residential, Roofing, Specialty Structure, and Glass and Glazing contractors must complete 1 hour of Wind Mitigation Methodology as part of their required 14 hours. Enforcement of this new 1 hour requirement on Wind Mitigation Methodology begins with the expiration of certificated licenses on August 31, 2008, and the expiration of registered licenses on August 31, 2009.
- The remaining hours are classified as general credits.

Contractors who do not complete the required hours will not be allowed to renew their licenses. If your contractor's license is not renewed by the expiration date, you may not practice until your license status has been updated. The fee to renew an active state contractor's license is \$209.00.

Please note: these continuing education requirements only apply to certified or registered contractors with a state license in one of the categories above. If you do not have a state license, this does not apply to you. Examples of construction work that do not require a state license include cabinets, countertops, flooring, paint, wallpaper and window treatments. If you perform any of these types of work, you should check your county or city to find out if it requires a local

specialty license for the type of work you do. If your local county or city does not offer such a license and the work you perform creates or modifies a structure, you will most likely need a state residential, building or general contractor's license.

For electrical contractors: If you hold a state electrical or alarm contractor's license, you almost must renew your license by August 31st of every even-numbered year (which 2008 is). Prior to renewing your license, you must complete 14 hours of continuing education in the following areas:

- 7 hours technical
- 1 hour workers' compensation
- 1 hour workplace safety
- 1 hour business practices
- 2 hours false alarm prevention (for all certified and registered alarm contractors who perform alarm work)
- 1 to 3 hours general (3 hours for contractors not required to take false alarm prevention)
- 1 hour Florida Building Code advanced module course

If you have not completed your required continuing education credits, you will not be able to renew your license. For electrical and alarm contractors, the license fee is \$300.00 for certified licenses and \$155 for registered licenses.

All state-licensed contractors (both construction and electrical/alarm) can check the number of continuing education hours they have completed online by going to www.myfloridalicense.com. Click on "For Businesses" on the left-hand side of the page. From there, you can check your education hours, renew your license, find continuing education courses, change your license status, or change your address information. To contact the Construction Industry Licensing Board

or the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board, please call 850-487-1395.

In addition, all active licensed contractors must maintain insurance minimums at all times.

General and Building contractors:

- \$300,000 liability insurance
- \$50,000 property damage insurance
- Workers' compensation (unless exempt)

All other construction categories:

- \$100,000 liability insurance
- \$25,000 property damage insurance
- Workers' compensation (unless exempt)

Electrical and Alarm contractors:

- \$300,00 per occurrence, including completed operations and products
- \$500,000 property damage, including completed operations and products
- \$100,000 per person; or
- \$800,000 combined single limit
- Workers' compensation (unless exempt)

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AVAILABLE

On June 30, 2008, President Bush signed a new law creating the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program. This law provides for extended unemployment benefits of up to 13 additional weeks for unemployed workers who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits. This extension is scheduled to end March 31, 2009.

To be eligible for extended benefits, the claimant must have filed a claim effective on or after May 7, 2006 and must have exhausted all his/her regular state unemployment benefits. Applications will be mailed to those individuals who meet these criteria and are potentially eligible for extended benefits.

These extended federal benefits are entirely paid for with federal money. Employers whose former employees receive these extended benefits will not have their accounts charged for any money paid out to claimants on this extension.